A Smile and a Meal

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ

Baba and Mansoor's Conversation

Mansoor: Baba, today at school, my teacher said we should always be kind to everyone. But what if we don't know them?

Baba: That's a wonderful question, my dear. Did you know that our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught us to greet everyone, whether we know them or not?

Mansoor: Really? What did he say?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said: "To feed (the poor) and greet those whom you know and those whom you do not know." (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith #12)

Mansoor: Oh! So saying "Assalamu Alaikum" to everyone is a good deed?

Baba: Yes, my son. It spreads love and peace. When we greet someone, we remind them that we are all part of the same big family of Muslims.

Mansoor: But what about feeding people? Do I have to cook? I don't know how!

Baba: (laughs) No, my dear. You can share in small ways. If you have an extra snack, you can share it with a friend. Or if you see someone in need, you can ask me or Ammi to help them. Even offering water is a great act of kindness.

Mansoor: Baba, today I saw a man sitting outside the masjid. He looked very tired. I wanted to help, but I didn't know how.

Baba: That was a good feeling, my son. Next time, we can take some food or water with us when we go to the masjid. Would you like to give it to him yourself?

Mansoor: Yes, Baba! And I will say "Assalamu Alaikum" with a big smile!

Baba: That's my boy! A smile and a kind word can warm a heart just like food fills an empty stomach. Let's always try to be among those who spread goodness.

Mansoor: InshaAllah, Baba! Tomorrow, I will take some dates with me. And I will greet everyone, even if I don't know them!

Baba: MashaAllah! That will make Allah very happy. Remember, small acts of kindness bring big rewards.

Mansoor: Yay! I want lots of rewards from Allah!

Baba: And Allah loves those who do good. Keep spreading kindness, my dear.